

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01

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R 131420Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8078

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, PO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON PORTUGAL

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL CONTINUES HEAVY. COVERAGE INDICATES COMPLETE SOVIET SATISFACTION WITH TURN OF EVENTS. NO BLAME FOR THE ATTEMPTED COUP IS YET BEING PLACED ON ANY FORCES OUTSIDE PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS ON MARCH 13 CONTINUES HEAVY COVER-
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AGE OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL FOLLOWING THE ATTEMPTED COUP. THE

PRESS EMPHASIZES DEMONSTRATIONS OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM), NOTING THAT MARCHERS HAVE BEEN PARADING "UNDER RED FLAGS," AS WELL AS UNDER THE NATIONAL FLAG. PRAVDA REPLAYS BOTH THE GOMES AND THE GONCALVES STATEMENTS OF MARCH 11, EMPHASIZING THE LATTER'S PROTESTATION OF NEED FOR CLOSE UNITY WITH THE AFM AND WITH "PROGRESSIVE AND PATRIOTIC POLITICAL PARTIES."

3. PRAVDA MARCH 13 REPORTS THE "CONSTITUTIONALIZATION" OF THE AFM, AND NOTES THAT THE ELECTION FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD, AS EARLIER PLANNED, ON APRIL 12. THE PAPER ALSO REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BE RESTRUCTURED "WITH THE AIM OF INSURING EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING AND THE FULFILLMENT OF TASKS LAID UPON IT."

4. IZVESTIYA, CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFM, REPLAYS PCP STATEMENT WHICH CREDITS "TIMELY AND DECISIVE ACTIONS" BY THE AFM WITH HAVING SAVED THE REVOLUTION. ALSO AIDING IN THIS REGARD, ACCORDING TO IZVESTIYA, WAS THE RAPID MOBILIZATION OF THE MASSES AT THE CALL OF PCP AND INTERSINDICAL. PRAVDA REPORTS THAT THE PCP HAS CALLED FOR QUICK PUNISHMENT OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THE COUP ATTEMPT IN ORDER TO INSURE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: THE SOVIET PRESS HAS SO FAR REFRAINED FROM INVOLVING ANY OUTSIDE "INTERVENTION" IN THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS IN PORTUGAL. NO MENTION OF THE U.S. OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN PORTUGAL HAS YET BEEN MADE. THE PRESS HAS BEEN SATISFIED TO LAY ALL BLAME ON "REACTIONARY FORCES" WITHIN PORTUGAL ITSELF. WE HAVE AS YET SEEN NO AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARIES ON THE EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. EVENTS POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN MOVING TOO FAST FOR THE SOVIETS TO APPROVE AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PLEASED WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS.
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